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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20515-6015

June 15, 2005

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The Honorable Rob Simmons  
215 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rob:

Thank you for your thoughtful and timely letter, as well as your frequent personal conversations, on the importance of Amtrak to your constituents and your congressional district. Your input has been instrumental to the House Appropriations Committee's work in determining the future of Amtrak's rail service, particularly in the Northeast Corridor.

In the face of increasing competition for federal dollars, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, HUD, the Judiciary and Independent Agencies has been faced this year with many difficult issues. The future of Amtrak, and specifically rail service in the Northeast, is among the most challenging funding issues the subcommittee will face all year. As you know, the President's FY '06 budget request proposed to eliminate federal funding for intercity passenger rail service.

You will be pleased to know that as a result of your consistent and thoughtful communication, the Transportation, Treasury, HUD Appropriations Subcommittee has included in its subcommittee bill \$550,000,000 for Amtrak, all of which will be dedicated to routes in the Northeast Corridor as well as selected areas throughout the country where passenger rail is economically viable. Included within this amount is \$30,328,079 to continue Amtrak passenger rail service for all Northeast Corridor routes, including spurs that run from New York City to Albany; from New Haven, Connecticut to Vermont; and from Portland, Maine to Boston. Also included within the subcommittee bill is \$50,000,000 for the Secretary of Transportation to address capital improvements throughout the Northeast Corridor.

Rob, you have been delivering a very important message to both Subcommittee Chairman Knollenberg and to me, specifically, that passenger rail service in your congressional district and the Northeast cannot survive without federal support. You have been an effective voice and tireless advocate on behalf of your constituents who depend upon rail service for transportation and jobs. I look forward to our continued work together as this bill continues through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

*Jerry*  
Jerry Lewis  
Chairman

*Rob ~ You have really helped with this debate. . . Jerry*